

Jacob W. Van Winkle House
Riverside and Valley Brook Avenues
Lyndhurst, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-477

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Jacob W. Van Winkle House
Riverside and Valley Brook Avenues
Lyndhurst, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Masonic Club of Lyndhurst

Date of Erection: 1797 main house, wing probably a
little earlier

Architect:

Builder: Jacob W. Van Winkle

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brownstone

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel on main,
pitch on wing

Historical Data:

One of the later deeds records that the property was acquired by Jacob W. Van Winkle on January 14, 1789 by deed from John R. Moyer and wife et als. It is supposed to have been a tract of about five hundred acres. It passed from Jacob W. to his son Walling J. and to his son Jacob, and was sold out of the family by the heirs of Jacob Van Winkle to Jacob Watson who gave a mortgage to August Belmont. August Belmont assigned this

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mortgage to William Travers and after Watson's death his four brothers were defendants in a mortgage foreclosure. Travers received his deed from the sheriff of Bergen County. It went out of the Travers family to the Travers Realty Company in 1905; then it was sold to Anna Hauck and her husband Charles C. Anna Hauck later became Anna Klarmann and she and her husband conveyed the property to the present owners in 1922.

This building played a part in the old Tally-Ho days, and it knew August Belmont, Sr. and Boss Tweed. Next to the building was the race tract of James S. Watson; August Belmont and Pierre Lorillard were visitors here. Later on the building was used as a private school; it was here that young Bob Fitzsimmons was sent.

The foundation of the building is of stone two feet thick. The exterior is brownstone from the Avondale quarries just across the Passaic River in Essex County. The original iron numerals on the front of the house indicate the date of erection as being 1797. However, the kitchen wing was probably built shortly after Van Winkle acquired the property in 1789.

Bibliography:

"Historical Masonic Building which stands
March of Time" Commercial Leader
(Lyndhurst) January 12, 1933

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Information from W. C. Fairchild,
Rutherford, New Jersey

A search of Bergen County records
by Frank P. Caulfield, Essex County
Office

Walter C. Rutt

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.T.A.
District Officer

(Jan)